

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 1, 1924.

The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1924 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Friday, February 1, 1924. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Medary,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and

Executive Officer.

Mr. Bacon was prevented from being present, having advised he was "under the weather".

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held December 14, 1923, were approved.
2. STATUE FOR PEACE PALACE AT THE HAGUE: Under date of January 14, 1924, Mr. Andrew O'Connor, sculptor, submitted the following letter in explanation of his model of the proposed statue for the Peace Palace at The Hague:

"I submit herewith the following statement as my interpretation of my intentions which I wish to convey in my statue for The Hague Peace Palace:

A Congressional Appropriation was made in 1914 to enable the United States to contribute to the adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague by sending some object of art of national production.

Mr. Bryan at that time Secretary of State suggested Peace by Justice as a title for this object of art.

After considerable preliminary study it was decided that a single statue would be the most appropriate object of art to decorate the chosen place.

Justice, being the most desirable thing in the world to look forward to and of vastly greater importance than peace, which will appear when justice rules the world and cannot exist except by Peace, and then only momentarily until Justice is enthroned, it became therefore necessary to show in this statue such elements

Justice might be supposed to embody and especially in conformity with the American idea of justice; a calm and noble detachment, a sense of power and strength without gesture and an oncoming movement, tranquil but irresistible.

The distinguishing feature of the American idea of Justice differentiating it from that of other peoples is a fundamentally sincere and unchanging belief that justice will ultimately prevail and that naturally peace will follow.

The statue therefore is advancing firmly, calmly without hurry but as an inevitable force. Its sense of power is suggested from within rather than by conventional gestures.

While in its general mass the great models of antiquity have been carefully studied, the treatment of the statue in detail is based uniquely on the highest types of American civilization.

From the purely technical point of view, owing to the manner of approaching the statue through the entrance hall and up a monumental staircase of rich materials to the site where the principal light is given by a series of stained glass windows behind and on either side of the statue, it was evident that great vigor of contour and mass and ampleness of form were necessary, or under the conditions the effect of a statue in such a place might easily become thin and trivial.

Such is "the work of art" called for in the bill for "the adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague."

Mr. O'Connor appeared personally before the Commission to explain his model and to discuss with them questions that had been raised concerning it. The model had been officially approved by the Commission December 21, 1922.

Mr. O'Connor stated that it appears that the State Department is raising questions that rather concern matters of detail than the Fine Arts. He said that in 1914, pursuant to the appropriation made to permit the gift as a contribution by the United States to the adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague, he had been selected by the Commission of Fine Arts as the sculptor for this work, with the approval of the President. The selection was made after a competition with many sculptors. Since 1914 he has had this work before him with a view to producing a work of art which will be an adornment to the Peace Palace at The Hague, to be placed on the site selected at the head of the grand marble stair case opposite the principal

entrance, which he felt required something ample in form and pretty vigorous in outline, and in this connection also, the lighting provided by colored windows from the rear and sides of the apse had to be considered. At the time, Mr. O'Connor said, Mr. Bryan, then Secretary of State, thought it would be appropriate to have a statue entitled "Peace through Justice."

The Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation Act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, contains the following provision:

"To enable the United States to contribute to the adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague by sending some object of art of national production, \$20,000.

Mr. O'Connor's preliminary model, showing two figures, submitted in 1915, not having been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, he made this new model, which he felt typified Justice in the manner above indicated in his report to the Commission,--a calm figure, with a movement forward, as though Justice was a thing lacking but was coming on irresistibly. Mr. O'Connor said he studied the place very carefully and feels it will make a very appropriate statue. The statue will be about 7 feet high and with the pedestal about 9 feet high. He had hoped to receive authority from the State Department to work on the statue in the Peace Palace at The Hague.

Mr. Mowbray said the trouble is that officials of the State Department think of this figure as a statue of Justice,--that it seems they are wanting such a figure. Mr. O'Connor replied that he felt it was one thing to tell a man how he should do his work and another thing to have a certain amount of confidence in the carrying out of his idea.

Mr. Medary said he didn't think the State Department wants to say to Mr. O'Connor how he should do his work. The whole question has come down

to this,--"You were told to make a statue of Justice and you make something that is not Justice,-at any rate they think you have not interpreted Justice".

Mr. O'Connor then explained that he intended to have his figure represent Justice as regarded from an American point of view,-which is calm, noble, irresistible, a thing that will come slowly, but inevitably to its day. It is not a thing that is carrying scales or has blinded eyes, or ecclesiastical symbolism, but, he said, we believe that sooner or later Justice will triumph and peace will then reign, that is a thing that is inevitable, and, he said, I have tried to make a statue that looks as coming forward, irresistibly, inevitably. Of course, he said, there may be 42 different ways of making it.

Mr. Medary said if he saw that thing for the first time (looking at a large photograph of the model which Mr. O'Connor submitted), I would be tremendously impressed by the power, vigorousness, originality, of it,-that it was the woman who made the conquest of pioneer America possible, the kind of strong, powerful, irresistible womanhood that was the mother of pioneer America; but it would never occur to me it was Justice.

To Mr. O'Connor's statement that he made his figure in such a way as he thought would represent Justice, Mr. Medary replied the real issue is whether this statue embodies what Justice is supposed to embody, justice being an eternal principle. Mr. O'Connor thereupon stated that a strong man, such as Saint Gaudens, establishes standards and scholars follow, and they have made fortunes out of the standards established; but, he said, "My statue of Justice will be different from the others. If I had thought of making a statue of Justice with blinded eyes I would have done so. It represents ten years of the best years of my life. I think it is better than anything I have ever done before, and what I ask for is the support of other artists. I do not expect to have the support of laymen, but I expect that other artists should

see in it a work of art."

Mr. Mowbray said he thought it was a good figure, but it is "the technique that is troubling us."

Mr. Medary stated, "If we are merely responsible for a fine work of art then our problem is easy, but the real question is, how far are we responsible for saying that it is a statue of Justice". Mr. Medary said he thought it does not make any difference whether or not the statue has a name.

Mr. Ayres asked Mr. O'Connor questions concerning the lighting, and Mr. O'Connor replied that there are 14 steps coming up to the apse; that the strongest light comes from the back and the sides through colored windows. The place, he said, had much to do with making the figure as he has made it; that it requires a strong figure and that he has made it as he thinks interprets the American idea of Justice,-a calm, noble, oncoming irresistible force, which will ultimately triumph.

Mr. Greenleaf said he had been listening with a great deal of interest and appreciation; that he does not wish to question the artistic value of the figure as a work of art and he could see it in the Luxembourg, for example, as a mighty fine thing representing a famous work from America; but he said, "The State Department looks to the Commission for advice as to the suitability of the statue which is to be placed in the Peace Palace at The Hague,-suitability not merely from the point of view of a work of art, but also as to its environment; and that he very much questions if this fine work of art is the type of thing which the United States wants to put in that place as typifying America's ideas. Without criticizing it as a work of art, is it the type of thing the United States wants to send to the

Peace Palace? There is in it a certain repose, vigor, carelessness, and ~~even~~ a certain coarseness, which gives vigor and strength, but which he felt in a national representation is rather out of place in the Peace Palace at The Hague. Mr. Greenleaf said that he was stating perhaps the conventional point of view, that he didn't care to talk about bandages and scales, but that nevertheless careful consideration should be given to the kind of figure that is placed in The Hague Peace Palace.

Mr. O'Connor replied, "I think from the purely technical point of view, that is for me to think of, considering the location, the distance from which it will be seen. It was very necessary to make it a large and powerful thing,--some thin thing in that location could not be a greater calamity."

Mr. Fraser stated that in the marble a great deal of the loose quality in the model would certainly be taken up, the material itself, Carrara Marble, being luminous. Mr. Fraser said he could see Mr. Greenleaf's point of view, but that the finished statue would have a noble quality. "There is one criticism", Mr. Fraser said, "just from the artistic standpoint, that is a difference between the upper and lower part of the figure from the knee down", which he thought gives the figure an element of coarseness; also one hand appears as a clenched fist and the other hand incompletely modeled.

Mr. O'Connor stated that when the photograph was taken the model was not completely finished and that the finished statue would show these elements much finer; also that he had been very desirous of carrying out the idea which inspired the Act providing for the statue. Mr. Fraser said "I feel that the lady has a decided mental attitude, and that the body has

a physical quality, that the upper part of the figure is slightly different from the lower part, and in further work on the model that feature should be given particular attention; that he would have the figure represent a good work of art rather than to have it represent "Justice"; and that the necessary refinement will come out in the marble.

After concluding remarks by Mr. O'Connor, in which he again emphasized the fact that he had done his very best to present a good work of art, the Commission thanked Mr. O'Connor for having come to Washington to explain his model.

The Commission thereupon decided to report to the Department of State that it is a good piece of sculpture, and fulfills the conditions of the Act of Congress pertaining to it, namely that it will be an adornment of national production to the Peace Palace at The Hague; that it will make a good statue and a worthy work of art. (Exhibit A).

3. GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BUILDING PLANS: Mr. Arthur B. Heaton, architect, again submitted drawings for the proposed Arts and Sciences building, in connection with a general plan for proposed new buildings of the George Washington University, for advice with reference to details in the architecture, and with a view to having the buildings conform to the approved type of Washington architecture, established by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, and to which the Senate Park Commission of 1901 and the Commission of Fine Arts have adhered in the erection of buildings in Washington. The suggestions made to Mr. Heaton will be incorporated in the building plans.

4. PLAN FOR THE HOME OF THE AGED AND INFIRM: Captain John E. Wood

submitted in behalf of the District Commissioners a ground plan for the Home of the Aged and Infirm at Blue Plains, D. C. (south of Washington, about opposite Alexandria), with a lay-out of proposed new buildings. The question was raised as to whether an institution having such simple buildings justified an elaborate formal treatment; also how a pool shown in the plan was to be effectively handled unless it had a stone coping. The doubt raised as to associating a formal scheme with these simple buildings was met by Mr. Moore's statement that this would finally become a part of the Outer Park System of the District of Columbia. An inspection trip to the grounds is to be made in the near future.

5. HOME FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED: Captain Wood submitted a restudy of the ground plan for the Home of the Feeble Minded, which is to be built near Camp Meade. Time did not permit of a thorough examination of the plan. It appeared to Mr. Greenleaf a decided improvement over the previous plan submitted and is to have further consideration at the next meeting.

6. TENLEYTOWN SCHOOL HOUSE: Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted tentative sketches for the proposed school house at Tenleytown, D. C. These were inspected by Mr. Ayres and Mr. Medary. The sketches appeared out of scale and clumsy, and recommendations were made with a view to their simplification. The designs will be resubmitted to the Commission.

7. IMPROVEMENT OF THE STREET LIGHTING, D. C.: Captain Wood submitted, in behalf of the District Commissioners, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale model for the new 22 foot double light lamp post, which was made by Mr. Joseph Gosling of the General Electric Company, of Schenectady, New York, in accordance with drawings heretofore submitted and considered by the Commission. The model was thought to be satisfactory and it was approved as to form and

mass. Suggestions were made to Mr. Gosling with reference to improving the ornamentation under the globes and these changes will be incorporated in a full-sized drawing of the lamp post, which is to be submitted at the next meeting.

8. BOULEVARD DEVELOPMENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Captain Wood submitted a map of a proposed Boulevard development in the District of Columbia, stating that the plan was drawn to show the boulevard drives that could be completed by the District Commissioners as part of their regular highway development system and for which no specific legislation or appropriation by Congress would be necessary. The boulevard would cover Water Street, M Street to the Navy Yard, Nichols Avenue in Anacostia, then along the old Civil War forts in the eastern part of the District of Columbia towards Bladensburg, thence crossing the Eastern Branch it would pass along a number of old Civil War forts on the north side of the District, and then cover several roads in the vicinity of Rock Creek Park, such as the Pierce Mill road and the Adams Mill Road, then along the west side of the District to include Chain Bridge road and Reservoir Street.

Mr. Moore said it was the first time the District Commissioners were submitting a plan in which the District of Columbia as a whole was considered. The Commission endorsed the plan.

Captain Wood also submitted a tentative plan suggesting a change for a "primary traffic thoroughfare", which is to be given further attention at the next meeting. It contemplates changing the Highway Plan of the District of Columbia, so as to designate particular streets and avenues as main thoroughfares.

9. BUST OF CHAMP CLARK: Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman of the House

Committee on the Library, having requested the advice of the Commission with reference to two busts of the late Ex Speaker Champ Clark, the Commission visited Mr. Luce's office. The busts were by Mr. Dykaar and by Mr. Bush-Brown, sculptors.

Mr. Fraser pronounced the bust by Mr. Dykaar as much more resembling Speaker Clark than the other; that the work was carefully done and he would recommend it to the Committee for purchase. The Commission endorsed the suggestion. (Exhibit B)

10. NAVAL PAINTING "PEACE": The Commission, at the request of Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman of the House Committee on the Library, visited the House Naval Affairs Committee room to inspect a painting which has been proposed for purchase by the Committee. Mr. Luce stated the painting, so it is said, was made shortly after the War of 1898 by Walter Dean, artist of Boston. The painting, entitled "Peace", portrayed a fleet of ships.

Mr. Mowbray said it was an interesting picture and upon Mr. Luce asking how much he thought should be paid for it, Mr. Mowbray said that he thought \$5,000 was a fair price. Mr. Luce replied that he was glad to hear that, as the owners were asking \$15,000 for it. Mr. Mowbray regarded this price entirely too high and said he doubted if an art dealer could be secured who would give \$5,000 for it. (Exhibit C)

11. BUCHANAN MEMORIAL: The Commission visited the Munitions Building, where Col. Sherrill had placed the model for the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park for inspection by the members of the Commission. The model had only that day been set up and was not in complete form, but it gave to the members who had not seen the model an indication of what the Lower Garden in Meridian Hill Park is to be like, and indicated the location of the Buchanan Memorial.

Mr. Medary reported that since the last meeting of the Commission he had been in Baltimore to see the model and thought it would make too large a monument to place in Meridian Hill Park. It was suggested that Mr. Ayres and Mr. Bacon examine the working drawings which Mr. Beecher had sent, and submit their recommendations as to any changes which they think should be made in the full size model.

12. UNITED STATES FLAG STANDARDIZATION: In accordance with the request of the Commission, made at the meeting on December 14th, the Department of Commerce submitted drawings for the purpose of determining the star circle diameter of the United States flag, in connection with the new suggested change of proportion in the size of the flag of 1.67 to 1.

The Commission in their consideration of the subject referred to the historic flags of the United States. The Commission gave particular attention to the drawings submitted, showing the star circle, of the stars of the union, with a diameter of three-fourths of the width of the stripe, but felt that the stars so drawn would appear smaller on an actual flag. Mr. Medary illustrated this by a sketch which he made, superimposed on the drawing submitted. It was thought that the sketch submitted by the Department of Commerce, showing the union square and the stars on a diagonal, made the stars appear too crowded.

The Commission felt that it would improve the United States flag to base the proportions of the flag as a whole on the width of the stripe, and suggested the flag be 13 stripes hoist and 21 "stripes" fly; the union to be 7 stripes hoist and 8 "stripes" fly. The Commission requested that the Department of Commerce submit, for consideration at the next meeting, a drawing of a United States flag, in colors, based on these suggested proportions. (Exhibit D)

13. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES BUILDING: Under date of January 9, 1924, the Commission received the following letter from Major J. F. Bell, District Engineer Commissioner:

"I am handing you by messenger herewith a blueprint showing proposed terrace treatment of area south of the building for the National Academy of Sciences. In view of the fact that you passed upon the building plans your comments on the terrace treatment are highly desired. There is one feature of the terrace treatment which ordinarily would not be approved by the District of Columbia and that is the construction of a pool in the public parking. If, however, in the opinion of your Commission this pool is essential to the architectural effect of the whole, I am inclined to believe that we would be disposed to grant permit for such privilege.

"In view of the fact that the builder has actually made application for this permit and the fact that the plans are outside of the building in which they were filed, an early recommendation would be greatly appreciated."

The Commission visited the National Academy of Sciences building in the afternoon and were much pleased with the progress made in the construction of the building. Information having been received from the District Commissioners' office that the above plan should not have been submitted by them, as the terrace was adjacent to public grounds, and that the Chief of Engineers had issued a permit to construct the pools, the Commission nevertheless questioned the effect of the pools leading from the sidewalk to the entrance, and as to whether these pools with their stone copings will not have an effect of a mass of stone work not in keeping with the planting at the sides. The Commission suggested that the pools be divided and one placed as the central feature of each of the right and left gardens. Mr. Moore said he would bring the matter personally to the attention of Dr. Walcott, President of the National Academy of Sciences.

14. TABLET, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE: An Act approved January 30, 1924, (S.627), authorizing the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, to

place a bronze tablet on the Francis Scott Key Bridge, reads as follows:

"BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 is authorized to place, on the Francis Scott Key Bridge across Potomac River, a bronze tablet, inscribed with the insignia of such society and with the last verse of the Star Spangled Banner, after the plans and specifications for such tablet have been submitted to, and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts on such plans and specifications, the installation of said tablet to be under the direction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 2. Such tablet shall be erected without expense to the Government of the United States."

The Commission made a trip of inspection to the Key Bridge to consider the matter, and upon inspection of the site proposed, on one of the concrete slabs at the approach of the bridge, decided that no bronze tablet should be placed there, holding it undesirable to place bronze on "stone". At best, bronze letters could be sunk into the concrete.

The Commission recommended that a plain marble tablet (Napoleon gray, selected for its absence of crow's feet), with well designed lettering, be erected in preference to the bronze tablet, on the slab at the right on the District of Columbia side of the approach to the bridge. The tablet should be 6 feet 6 inches long, by 2 feet 10 inches wide, 2 inches thick, and have a projection of $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch.

Mrs. Charles F. Taylor submitted tentative sketches of bronze tablets, in behalf of the United States Daughters of 1812, for the consideration of the Commission, but no action was taken by the Commission with reference to them. (Exhibit E)

15. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: Under date of January 24, 1924, Hon. George W. Pepper, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library,

submitted a copy of Senate Joint Resolution No.68,"Authorizing the erection on public grounds in Washington, for a Navy and Marine Memorial, dedicated to Americans lost at sea,"for the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. A similar Joint Resolution (H.J.Res.129) had been introduced in the House of Representatives, concerning which Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman of the House Committee on the Library, submitted the following report (Report No.109, 68th Congress, 1st Session):

"The Committee on the Library, to which was referred the joint resolution (H.J.Res.129) providing for the erection on public grounds in the city of Washington, D.C., other than those of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the White House, of a memorial to the Navy and Marine services, to be known as "Navy and Marine Memorial, dedicated to Americans lost at sea" has considered it and reports it to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

"This memorial is intended as a monument to our national life on the sea and to be affectionately dedicated to the thousands of Americans who have gone down in the sea whose destiny is so closely linked with our naval and maritime services. It is not intended to commemorate any individual here or group of heroes or battle or any historical event in particular. The reliefs on the four sides of the pedestal which will sustain the memorial will bear by direct or symbolic representation all the activities of the sea. The Navy, merchant marine, Coast Guard, discoveries, travel, fisheries, etc., will be properly represented on the sides of the pedestal and in proper places in the base. Such a great memorial is especially fitting, as there is now none honoring the memory of those who gave their lives at sea in these services and in their country's honor. This memorial has the approval of all the services it is intended to represent.

"All the expense attached to the purchase and erection of both the monument and base, as well as the development of the site, is to be borne entirely through private subscriptions which will be raised by the honorary national committee and executive committee of the Navy and Marine Memorial.

"There will be absolutely no expense to the Government. The only part it is expected to play will be the furnishing of an adequate site. The site and design of the memorial are subject to the approval of the Fine Arts Commission."

The headquarters of the Navy and Marine Memorial Association is at 125 West 11th Street, New York City, where Mr. Fraser said he saw the model-- showing sea gulls in flight over the waves. He understood it is to cost

\$350,000. The model was made by Begni del Piatta. Several of the members of the Commission said they would arrange to see the model. The matter will receive further consideration at the next meeting.

16. CONGRESSIONAL BILLS: The following bills, which had been introduced in the 68th Congress since it convened in December, 1923, were referred to the Commission for advice:

By Hon. John W. Langley, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds:

H. R. 46, To provide for the acquisition of certain property in the District of Columbia for the United States Botanic Garden.

H. R. 47, To provide for the building of a conservatory and other necessary buildings for the United States Botanic Garden.

By Hon. George W. Pepper, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library:

S. J. Res. 43, In relation to a monument to commemorate the services and sacrifices of the women of the United States of America, its insular possessions, and the District of Columbia in the World War.

S. J. Res. 44, To provide for a monument to Major General William Crawford Gorgas, late Surgeon General of the United States Army.

S. 627, To authorize the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, to place a bronze tablet on the Francis Scott Key Bridge (See paragraph 14 above)

S. 984, A bill, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to erect a monument at Fort Pierre, S. D., to commemorate the exploration and discoveries of the Verendrye Brothers and to expend not to exceed \$25,000 therefor.

S. J. Res. 7, Granting permission for the erection of a monument to symbolize the national game of baseball.

S. J. Res. 57, Authorizing the erection on public grounds in the District of Columbia of a statue by Jose Clara, personifying "Serenity".

S. J. Res. 68, providing for a Navy and Marine Memorial. (See paragraph 15 above).

Mr. Moore suggested considering these "legislative bills" with the Joint Committee on the Library, if possible at the next meeting, because he thought it was not possible to make a report that would be satisfactory to the committee.

17. FRANCIS ASBURY MEMORIAL: Mr. Augustus Lukeman, sculptor, reported that the Francis Asbury Memorial Association was planning to dedicate their monument on June 3, 1924. He intends to submit to the Commission in the near future inscriptions to be placed on the memorial.

18. MEMORIAL TO THE AVIATORS OF THE WORLD WAR: Under date of February 1, 1924, the following letter was received from Major General Mason M. Patrick, Chief of Air Service, War Department, with regard to a proposed memorial to the Aviators of the World War:

"Mrs. Louis Bennett whose only son was an aviator and was killed during the World War has expressed the desire to give a memorial to be placed in this city on an appropriate site, to all of the aviators who gave their lives during the World War. A model of this proposed memorial has already been made by Mr. Lukeman whom I am sure you know and I enclose herewith two photographs of it. There are certain minor changes in the costume which I am suggesting in order to make the figure more true to life. These, I am told, can be incorporated without trouble and without material alteration of the design.

"It is proposed to seek the necessary Congressional authorization for the erection of this memorial but prior to so doing if not inconsistent with your procedure or with the rules governing your Commission, would it be possible for you to express a preliminary and informal opinion as to the acceptability of the design for this memorial? The sculptor does not wish to proceed with his work on the full size figure if, for any reason, the design should not be approved by your Commission.

"I do not know whether I am making an unusual request as I am not familiar with the way in which the Commission handles such matters. If, however, there is no reason why such a preliminary expression of opinion cannot be given, I shall be indebted to you if you will take this under consideration."

The design represents an aviator with wings. Mr. Fraser thought it better to have the statue represent a real air service man, without wings. Mr. Moore said he knew General Patrick personally and would arrange to have a talk with him about the matter.

19. ERICSSON MEMORIAL: Under date of December 29, 1923, the following letter was received from Colonel Sherrill, with regard to the Ericsson Memorial



site:

"There is enclosed herewith a blueprint showing the proposed new location of the Ericsson Memorial in accordance with the plans prepared by the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission. I would be glad to have the views of the Fine Arts Commission in reference to this location at as early a date as possible, in view of the fact that the Ericsson Memorial Commission is prepared to proceed with the construction of this monument and are only waiting for the definite determination of the site.

"The elevation of the site is determined by the grades of 23rd Street and Riverside Drive; the horizontal location by the intersection of 23rd Street with the corrected position of South B Street and Riverside Drive."

In order to expedite the matter, the letter and plan were referred to Mr. Greenleaf, Mr. Ayres and Mr. Bacon, for their recommendations and report, and on January 12, 1924, the following reply was sent to Colonel Sherrill:

"The question of relocation of the Ericsson Memorial, submitted in your letter of December 29, 1923, has been carefully considered by the Commission of Fine Arts.

"The Commission does not look upon the parallelism of the Mall road with B Street North of sufficient importance in itself to justify shifting it from its present position. The important point is whether by shifting it and thus placing the Ericsson Memorial circle further from the Lincoln Memorial, a better or an inferior drive connection between it and the plaza at the bridge head will be made. It is an advantage, though a minor one, to have the Ericsson circle at a greater distance from the Lincoln Memorial than was permitted before the sea wall was extended into the river.

"If the proposed change of location shall be made far more radical changes of sea wall and a much further shifting out into the river will be necessary in order that the drive may sweep properly into the plaza. The Commission hesitates to force upon the situation so radical a change without further information as to the engineering possibilities involved. The Commission is of one mind in stating that the whole situation of Ericsson site, Memorial Bridge Plaza, and drive entrance to both, must be presented to the Commission in a complete plan before any definite information on the Ericsson Memorial site can be made. As yet the Commission has no plan for the bridge head plaza and drives leading to it. Such a plan, showing also the park road parallel to B Street North and on a line with B Street South, also the cross axis of the Lincoln Memorial and Potomac Drive, is essential to a judgment of any value. Mr. Fraser, as sculptor of the Ericsson Monument is decidedly in accord with this statement.

"The plan which you submitted is herewith returned.

"A meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts has been called in Washington for February 1st, at which time the matter can be considered further."

To this letter a reply was received from Colonel Sherrill, under date of January 31, 1924 (Exhibit F), and the whole question of Ericsson Memorial site was made the subject of a detailed discussion by the Commission. As to the photographs of the Arlington Memorial Bridge plans, these had not been furnished for the use of the Committee when the letter and plan of the Ericsson Memorial site were submitted on December 29th. Furthermore, the Commission thought the plan submitted with the letter of December 29th incomplete in so far as determining the location of the Ericsson Memorial in its relation to the approach of the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

The Commission made a study of the proposed location for the Ericsson Memorial by taking the "Howard Plan" (Lincoln Memorial, Potomac Park Improvements), in connection with the "General Plan, Plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge", prepared by McKim, Mead and White, and decided that they would approve the erection of the Ericsson Memorial at the site shown on the "General Plan, Plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge", provided the sea wall is built as shown on that plan. (Exhibit G).

20. MONUMENT TO THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER: Under date of January 15, 1924, the following letter was received from Hon. John W. Weeks, Secretary of War, with regard to the full sized model of the monument to the Unknown Soldier, which Mr. Hastings had erected on the tomb on December 14, 1923, at which time it was inspected by the members of the Commission:

"We have carefully considered the proposed completion of the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier at Arlington and have decided that we cannot approve it. Since the placing of the full-sized model on the Memorial at the Amphitheatre it has been viewed by many people, and the criticism which has come to us has been unanimously in disapproval.

"I understood from Mr. Hastings that he had in mind some modification of the present proposal. I doubt, however, if any, probable modification would meet our approval.

"I am writing this letter in behalf of Mr. Denby as well as myself."

Because of the lateness of the hour, consideration of the matter was postponed until the next meeting.

The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman of the House Committee on the Library, and Mr. Fred G. Coldren, Chairman of the Committee on Parks of the Washington Board of Trade. After the luncheon the Commission went to the House Office Building with Mr. Luce, to the National Academy of Sciences building, and to the Francis Scott Key Bridge, returning at 4:30 p.m. to resume the session. The Commission adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

February 4, 1924.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

The Commission of Fine Arts asked Mr. Andrew O'Connor to attend their meeting on February 1st, and at that time went carefully into the whole matter of the statue for the Peace Palace at The Hague. The Act of Congress making the appropriation specifies merely--

"To enable the United States to contribute to the adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague by sending some object of art of national production, \$20,000."

It was suggested by Secretary Bryan that a statue embodying the idea of Peace with Justice should be prepared. From a literary point of view the subject was excellent but from a sculptural point of view it appeared to be impossible. No two persons' ideas of Peace with Justice seem to agree, and unless the statue were to be reduced to a pair of meaningless figures with olive branches and scales, the fulfilment of the requirements could not be reached. Moreover, the outbreak of the World War was a disturbance to artists generally. Since the War closed Mr. O'Connor has produced a work which fulfills the requirements of the Act of Congress. It is "an object of art of national production" which if erected will be "an ornament to the Peace Palace at The Hague", such at least is the unanimous opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts. It is a typical, representative, vigorous, intelligent, beautiful female form, having grace and movement. It is thoroughly alive and is quite equal to the best work being produced in Europe today. The Commission knows of no other American sculptor who could be relied on to produce a more satisfactory work for the place.

In this connection it is to be noted that the figure is to stand where it is seen from below or as one goes up the stairs. It is lighted through stained glass windows at the back and on the sides. This requires a bold, clear-cut silhouette, and so it is essential that the statue be located and finished in place, so that the height of the pedestal and peculiar conditions of lighting may be dealt with. Mr. Fraser, the sculptor member of the Commission, has examined the model in the sculptor's studio and unequivocally expressed his admiration of the conception and his confidence in the final outcome.

The Commission had before them a photograph of the model and discussed it with Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Fraser called the attention of Mr. O'Connor to the fact that the treatment of the lower half of the statue lacked something of the refinement shown in the upper half. This Mr. O'Connor admitted and both he and Mr. Fraser agreed that when the statue was cut in marble this criticism would disappear. Attention was also called to the fact that in the photograph the legs seem far apart, but Mr. Fraser explained that this was not shown in the model and a comparison with photographs of other statues showed that the apparent distance was

due to the camera and not to the artist. Attention was also called to the left hand, which in the sketch has not been completely modeled. Mr. O'Connor proposes to have the statue blocked out in marble and to complete it in place.

The sculptor's reputation, and the importance he attaches to this, probably his best, work, are such that the Commission of Fine Arts is confident that if completed and erected according to Mr. O'Connor's ideas and ideals, the statue will fulfill the purpose expressed by Congress and will be a credit to the Government of the United States.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. William Phillips,
Undersecretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

COPY

February 2, 1924.

Sir:

In accordance with your request, the Commission of Fine Arts inspected two busts of Hon. Champ Clark, in the rooms of the House Committee on the Library, yesterday. The Commission regard the bust by Mr. Dykaar as the better of the two, and as satisfactory as a work of sculpture.

The Commission concur in the suggestion that Mr. Herbert Adams, sculptor, 131 West Eleventh Street, New York City, be commissioned to execute the bust of Representative James R. Mann.

Respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman,
Committee on the Library,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

C O P Y

February 2, 1924.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts inspected with you the painting entitled "Peace" in the room of the Committee on Naval Affairs, yesterday. The Commission report that the picture is well painted. A price fair to the owners and to the Government would be about \$5,000. The picture would be improved by a simpler frame.

Respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Robert Luce, Chairman,
Committee on the Library,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C.

C O P Y

February 11, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts highly appreciate the endeavors of the Department of Commerce to bring order out of the chaotic conditions under which the United States flag is now being manufactured by the various makers of flags throughout the country. In studying the history of the flag, the Commission have been surprised to find how many changes in proportions the flag has undergone and is still undergoing. It seems to the Commission therefore desirable to obtain some simple formula which can be used by all manufacturers, so that there shall be one flag as there is one country. This the Commission understands is the object which is proposed by the Department of Commerce.

After a prolonged consideration of the designs submitted by the Department and a reference to the historic flags of the United States, the Commission suggest that the proportions of the flag be based on the width of the stripe. The number of stripes being 13, gives the figure 13 for the hoist; the fly should be 21, that is to say, whatever the width of the stripe, the fly should be to that width as 13 is to 21.

The union of the flag of the days of the Star Spangled Banner was square, but the increase in the number of States has made it undesirable to return to that proportion. It is therefore suggested that the Union be 7 stripes hoist and 8 stripes fly. The Commission will be pleased to have submitted to them for consideration at their next meeting a drawing of a United States flag, in colors, based on these suggested proportions. The members of the Commission worked out a number of designs with a view to the arrangement of the stars and the size of the stars, leaving room for certain increases in the number of States, and in these experiments found that the contrast between dark and white made it necessary for them to have a flag in actual colors in order to determine the proper proportions. Hence their request.

Respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. E. M. Hudson, Chairman,
Flag Standardization Committee,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT D.

C O P Y

February 14, 1924.

Sir:

With reference to Public Resolution No. 6, 68th Congress, authorizing the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 to place a bronze tablet on the Francis Scott Key Bridge, I desire to ask you, as the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, whether it will be permissible to change the tablet from bronze to marble.

The Commission of Fine Arts, after long experience, has found that inevitably a bronze tablet placed on stone or concrete stains the material under it and produces a very unpleasant aspect. Moreover, bronze in a short time becomes black and offers an unpleasing contrast to the material on which it is placed and the inscription is illegible save to persons standing very close to it. For these reasons the Commission has uniformly opposed the use of bronze tablets, excepting in cases where they are protected from the weather.

The proper tablet for the Francis Scott Key Bridge and for the very important place the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 desire to use is a marble slab. The Commission therefore recommend a gray marble tablet 6 feet 6 inches long, by 2 feet 10 inches wide, 2 inches thick, and having a projection of $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. The designing of this tablet will require some time, because of the simplicity of the tablet itself, and the great difficulty there is in obtaining simplicity of design on the part of manufacturers of tablets.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Hon. George W. Pepper, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT E

COPY
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,

January 31, 1924.

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Dept. Building,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Location of Ericsson Memorial

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of January 12th, I have discussed this matter with Mr. Kendall of McKim, Mead and White, and he agrees with me that the location proposed for the Ericsson Memorial is in every way superior to the one heretofore considered. I believe since your letter he has informally discussed this matter with several members of the Commission, including yourself.

You seem to have been under a misapprehension in reference to the moving out of the seawall as the proposed location does not involve any moving of the seawall from its present and projected location. Mr. Kendall says that his main object in suggesting the change is to bring the Ericsson Memorial a suitable distance from the Lincoln Memorial corresponding in general to the distance from the Memorial of B Street, North.

Another point which you seem to have misunderstood in my suggestion, is where you say that the proposed location contemplates placing South B Street parallel to North B Street. In reality South B Street as proposed would be parallel with the axis of the Mall and the axis of the reflecting pool, but not parallel to B Street, North, which is due east and west.

Your remark in reference to the lack of plans for this proposed development is not understood, as my understanding is that you have been furnished copies of the plans of the Arlington Memorial Bridge project. In case you have not, however, been furnished with copies of all the plans, I am inclosing herewith a set of photographs of the plans for your present use. Later on the Commission will be furnished with larger reproductions. In case the Commission wishes to see the original drawings, they may be seen at the present in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, where they are temporarily located.

I would be very glad to have the agreement of the Commission at its meeting tomorrow on this matter of the location of the Ericsson Memorial, in order that the work, which has been held up so long and with such hardship on the sculptor, may be commenced at once.

The architects and engineers working on these plans have most carefully considered all phases of the question and are quite confident that the proposed location will be the desirable one.

Very truly yours,

C. O. Sherrill,

Lieut. Col. Corps of Engineers.

Incls (photographs)
COS/NEB

EXHIBIT F.

COPY

February 4, 1924.

Sir:

Your letter of January 31, asking that the location for the Ericsson Memorial be approved in order to relieve the sculptor of certain burdens imposed upon him by the delay in the erection of his work, due to certain changes in Potomac Park required by the Arlington Memorial Bridge plans, received attention at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts February 1, 1924. The Commission also received from you a set of photographs of the plans of McKim, Mead and White for the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

The Commission referred to the "Plan of the Lincoln Memorial, Potomac Park Improvements, approved by the Commission of Fine Arts October 6, 1916, by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds December 15, 1916, and by the Chief of Engineers February 2, 1917, and noted the changes suggested by McKim, Mead and White as shown on the photograph of the drawing entitled "General Plan, Plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge."

Assuming that the new location of the sea wall shall be as shown on the enclosed photograph of the drawing by McKim, Mead and White, entitled "General Plan, Plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge", then the Commission of Fine Arts approve the new location of the Ericsson Memorial as shown on that Plan. This involves a new line for the sea wall, beginning at the point of intersection of the road leading from the Memorial to the Rock Creek Parkway with the Potomac River and extending along the Potomac to a point below the Ericsson Memorial as shown in the photograph.

In connection with this approval it is to be noted that the changes as outlined will necessitate considerable additional cost for foundation work for the Ericsson Memorial, which should not be charged to the sculptor, but should be provided for in some other way.

Again, the Commission of Fine Arts regard it of urgent importance that the main traffic roads leading down the Potomac River shall be constructed as two-way roads, having a width of at least 60 feet. The rapid increase in automobile traffic has created conditions which should be met by a widening of the main park roads in the District of Columbia for the reason that the view obtained of water and landscape differs according to the direction of the traffic and on one-way roads one-half of the beauty of the driving is taken away.

Respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

Chairman.

EXHIBIT G.

